

KFOR 8 Soldiers train in Hohenfels, Germany • On the Spot Corrections help Soldiers learn from mistakes • Task Force Eagle flies high

The GuardianMRX



Commander's Update

Brig. Gen. Douglas B. Earhart, commander of KFOR 8

Greetings from Germany! The Soldiers of KFOR 8 are scheduled to train in Germany at the Joint Maneuver Readiness Center (JMRC) for several weeks as part of their final preparations to assume authority for the Multi-National Task Force (East) mission in Kosovo, Operation Joint Guardian.

The JMRC is a world-class training center that has the ability to stress a unit that is getting ready to deploy into a theatre of operations. Our Soldiers have experienced almost every possible mission set that they will see in Kosovo, and I am confident that we are prepared to do our mission.

The Soldiers of the 29th are highly motivated and well led. Here at JMRC the proof of their commitment to our mission is evident.

Most of our Soldiers have never experienced the full impact of their capabilities, but during the eight-day Mission Rehearsal Exercise they have been given that opportunity.

Everyone in this task force is excited about our peace-enforcement mission and getting the chance to make a positive difference in the lives of the people of Kosovo.

As always, I can't say enough about how important our families are to what we are doing. Without their support, we wouldn't be able to do all the things that we do.

Our training here at JMRC is the final step of a process that began months ago. We have come from all over the country, and we represent the National Guard, the Army Reserve and active Army. While where we come from is important, it is more important that we are now functioning as a single unit, focused on the mission ahead.

I want to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication. I look forward to working with everyone as we begin our mission in Kosovo.

29 Let's Go!



"I am confident that we are prepared to do our mission."





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Department of Defense photos. Photo Illustration by: Pfc. Matthew C. Moeller

People and History of Kosovo

Story by Drita Perezic
Former MNB (E) Cultural Advisor

Kosovo is home to a number of ethnic groups. Many of you are familiar with the Serbs and Albanians, both of which are very emotionally, historically and politically linked to Kosovo. While they maintain numerical predominance, bear in mind that you may very well encounter other ethnicities while in Kosovo.

Kosovo is roughly 10,887 square kilometers, slightly smaller than Connecticut. The 1981 census identified the following ethnic groups: Albanians, Serbs, Bosnians and Montenegrin Muslims, Roma, Montenegrin, Turks, and others.

So, what are ethnic groups?

Recently the term "ethnicity" has been associated with conflict. This is probably a result of the last century, most notably following the Cold War when more and more conflicts were intrastate as opposed to interstate nature.

Ethnicity, however, is a form of kinship, group solidarity, and common culture.

Often language is a key identifier of a particular group. Ethnic's, or an 'ethnic community' can be described as: a named human population with myths of common ancestry, shared historical memories, elements of common culture, a link with homeland and sense of solidarity among at least some of its members.

In present day Kosovo the primary factors that distinguish ethnic groups are language and religion. Within ethnic groups there can be additional classifications which include religious affiliations. Such is the case amongst the Kosovo Albanians who can be either Roman Catholic or Muslim. Their fellow Albanians in Albania proper can also belong to the Albanian Orthodox Christian church and even some remain Jewish followers.

So let's get familiar with the different ethnic groups that call Kosovo home.

Albanians

The Albanians are the largest ethnic

group in Kosovo. They believe themselves to be the modern decedents of the ancient Illyrians who arrived to the peninsula centuries before the Slavs. The Albanians can be found in Albania proper, modern day Serbia and Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and in some regions of both Greece and Italy. The Albanians speak Albanian and can speak a number of languages including Serbian, German, Italian, and English. The Albanians can belong to the Islamic, Roman Catholic, Orthodox Christian and Jewish faiths among others.

Serbs

The Serbs arrived in the region in the sixth and seventh centuries as part of Slav migration from the North East. Modern day Serbia, Montenegro, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina have significant Serb populations. In the 800s, Serbian Saints Cyril and Methodius converted them to

Orthodox Christianity. The Serbian Orthodox church is a national church and central to the collective identity of the Serbian people. In fact, it is through the Serbian Orthodox church that the Serbs were able to preserve their sense of identity during 500 years of Ottoman administration over the region. The Serbs speak Serbian and use the Cyrillic script, some speak English, and there are also some Serbs that can speak Albanian.

Roma

Often referred to as "Gypsies," the Roma are comprised of various groups with different linguistic and religious traditions. The Roma include Ashkaelia and Egyptians. The acronym RAE refers to these three groups. Those that identify themselves as Roma use the Romani language and also speak Serbian and Albanian depending on what community they interact with most. Using the Romani language allows them to communicate with Roma living in other countries. The Ashkaelia are Roma that speak Albanian and tend to identify with the Albanian community. They are typically Muslim. The Egyptians are typically considered to be Ashkaelia, speak Albanian yet claim to originate from Egypt. They are also Muslim.

Both Serbs and Albanians see the Roma as second class citizens, and both have terms for them – the Serbs will call the Roma "Cigani" and the Albanians call them "Maxhup." Since the end of the war this community continues to be marginalized.

Kosovo Turks

Kosovo Turks speak primarily Turkish. Most can also speak Albanian and Serbian. From 1974-1989 Turkish was recognized as Kosovo's third official language. Kosovo Turks are Muslims. They have traditionally been neutral between Serbs and Albanian.

Muslim Slavs

These are Serbian speaking Slavs who are associated with the "Muslim Nationality" and are found primarily in Bosnia. Hence, they are sometimes called Bosniacs. They are Muslim and speak Serbian. They can also speak Albanian.

Gorani

These are Slavs of the Muslim faith from the Gora/Dragash Municipality in MNB-SW. They are not the same as Muslim Slavs or Bosniacs, because "Muslim" was a Nationality within the Former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, while the Gorani are a distinct ethnic group. The term "Goran" can be translated into "highlander," as they are typically associated with a mountainous region. They speak Serbian.

Kosovo Croats

They can also be called Janjevci, a name derived from the village of Janjevo/Janjeve in the Lipljan municipality where they made up a significant majority. In Multi-National Task Force (East) they can be found in the Vitina municipality. Most Croats left Kosovo during the Croatian conflict in the early 1990s fearing reprisal attacks by Kosovo Serbs. Croats speak Serbo-Croatian which uses the Latin Script. Croats are Roman Catholic.

Montenegrins

Montenegrins are Orthodox Christians, and speak Serbian. They use the Cyrillic alphabet. Most regard themselves as Serbs whose regional identity is Montenegrin, while others in the group see Montenegrin as a separate ethnic identity altogether.

As you can see, Kosovo's population is a full mosaic of languages, religions, and distinct groups. Sometimes these different groups call each other enemies, other times neighbors. Regardless of origin, language, politics, or other characteristics all of the people of Kosovo deserve to be treated with dignity and respect in a fair and impartial manner.

Information from: Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe, 1999, "Human Rights in Kosovo, As Seen, As Told"; U.S. Committee for Refugees, April 2000, "Reversal of Fortune: Yugoslavia's Refugees Crisis Since the Ethnic Albanian Return to Kosovo"; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees/World Food Programme, 5 February 2000, "Joint WFP/UNHCR Food Needs Assessment of Minorities in Kosovo, November" - December 1999

1974 - Yugoslavia recognizes the autonomous status of Kosovo, giving the province de facto self-government.
1989 - Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic proceeds to strip rights of autonomy laid down in the 1974 constitution.
1990 July - Ethnic Albanian leaders declare independence from Serbia. Belgrade dissolves the Kosovo government.
1993-97 - Tension and armed unrest escalate.
1998 - Open conflict between Serb police and Kosovo Liberation Army. Hundreds of thousands of civilians are driven from their homes.
1998 September - NATO gives an ultimatum to President Milosevic to halt actions.
1999 March - Belgrade rejects an internationally-brokered peace deal. NATO launches air strikes against Yugoslavia.
1999 June - Belgrade agrees to withdraw from Kosovo. NATO calls off air strikes. The UN sets up a Kosovo Peace Implementation Force (KFOR) and NATO forces arrive in the province. The KLA agrees to disarm.
2003 December - UN sets out conditions for final status talks in 2005.
2004 March - 19 people are killed in clashes between Serbs and ethnic Albanians in the town of Mitrovica.
2005 March - Mr. Haradinaj indicted to face UN war crimes.
2005 July - Nearly-simultaneous blasts go off near UN, OSCE and Kosovo parliament buildings in Pristina. No one is hurt.
2005 August - Two Serbs shot dead and two injured when their car is fired at.
2006 February - UN talks on the future status of Kosovo begin.
2006 July - First direct talks since 1999 between ethnic Serbs and Kosovan leaders on future status of Kosovo.
2006 October - Voters in a referendum in Serbia approve a new constitution which declares that Kosovo is an integral part of the country.

The following timeline was provided by the British Broadcasting News Service



Department of Defense Photo
Photo Illustration by Pfc. Matthew C. Moeller

Residents of Pristina, Kosovo welcome U.S. and NATO forces after the conclusion of the NATO-led bombing campaign in 1999.

TASK FORCE FALCON

Task Force Falcon will be the logistical support element for Kosovo Force Rotation 8.

TF Falcon is made up of Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 29th Infantry Division.

"Approximately 220 Soldiers fall under the umbrella of Task Force Falcon HHC," said, Capt. Anthony Salvadore, TF Falcon commander. "We are the logistics, administrative and support groups for this mission."

Spc. Jewell Hicks, a TF Falcon supply specialist added, "Although days have been long and hard this is what we do, we have trained and prepared for the mission ahead and we look forward to working in Kosovo."

TF Falcon is ready for KFOR 8.

Spc. Steven Miller, TF Falcon armorer said, "This is my first deployment, I look forward to a productive year in Kosovo."



Spc. Teirney M. Medeiros, 17th Public Affairs Detachment

Pfc. Brian Speaks, a Task Force Falcon computer automation assistant with the information technology help desk, assists a fellow Soldier with a computer malfunction. Other IT responsibilities include running the cyber café, and creating and maintaining internet accounts for Soldiers.



Spc. Stephen Proctor, 17th Public Affairs Detachment

Staff Sgt. Larry Breckenridge, Task Force Falcon, demonstrates proper weapon clearing procedures during a class Oct. 24.



Pfc. Matthew C. Moeller, 17th Public Affairs Detachment

Spc. Jewell P. Hicks, a Task Force Falcon supply specialist, inventories a shipment of Camelbaks before issuing them as part of Falcon's Rapid Fielding Initiative (RFI).

KFOR Thoughts

Q: What are you hoping to accomplish during this deployment?



I am hoping to become proficient at my job as an ammunition specialist. *Spc. Amy Degle, TF Eagle, 3-159th Aviation Brigade*



I'm here to take care of Soldiers, so that everyone back home can be safer. *Sgt. Bum Kim, TF Falcon, HHC, 29th Infantry Division*



To gain a broader, more in depth perspective into intel operations. *2nd Lt. Joseph Pieper, TF Prowler, 58th BCT, 29th Infantry Division*



To get some college classes done for a bachelor's in aerospace engineering. *Spc. Andrew Brandon, TF Red Dragon, 429 Supply Support Battalion*



To make sure joes on the ground have the intel they need. *Spc. Raymond Clark, TF Prowler, HHC, 29th Infantry Division*



I'm really hoping to take some free college courses in criminal justice. *Spc. Bob Mahaffey, TF Eagle, 3-159th Aviation Brigade*

HELP WANTED!

We need your Photos

Want to see your photos in the next issue? Then send your very best to matthew.moeller@us.army.mil. All photos should include a detailed description of the people and events taking place. Please no shots of Soldiers looking at the camera!

TF Eagle takes to the skies

Story by Pfc. Matthew C. Moeller,
17th Public Affairs Detachment

Dawn arrives as the Soldiers of Task Force Eagle brush the treetops while waiting to swoop down and assist those in need.

"Our primary mission for Kosovo Force Rotation 8 will be to support the Multi-National Task Force (East) commander in combat and combat support missions," said Lt. Col. Mark S. Fritz, TF Eagle Commander.

The task force's missions will involve medical evacuations, transporting troops, security as well as other missions.

But first the task force faces a unique hurdle, TF Eagle is made up of National Guard units from four different states as well as one active duty unit from U.S. Army Europe, but Fritz is not worried.

"They are coming together better than I could have hoped," he said proudly, "I am confident they will be able to provide a safe and secure environment in Kosovo."

Other Soldiers bear a similar sentiment.

According to Sgt. Bille Joe Carter, TF Eagle, human resources specialist, it has been different but exciting working with the other units.

"We have been showing them how we do things, and they have been showing us how they do things," she said.

Wherever these Soldiers are, they stand ready. From the pilots to the flight crew supporting them, the Soldiers of TF Eagle will be ready to swoop down and accomplish their mission.



Pfc. Matthew C. Moeller, 17th Public Affairs Detachment

Cavalry Soldiers roll on



Spc. Teirney M. Medeiros, 17th Public Affairs Detachment

Top: Task Force Patriot Infantry Soldiers from Delta Co. check out a Bradley Fighting Vehicle with Bravo Troop Cavalry Soldiers for cross-training purposes. Bottom: A Soldier with B Troop, Task Force Patriot holds his position during urban operations training at Camp Albertshof in Hohenfels, Germany Oct. 21.



Pfc. Matthew C. Moeller, 17th Public Affairs Detachment

How Task Force Patriot remembers its history as it makes its way into a new Army

PATRIOT

Story by Spc. Teirney M. Medeiros
17th Public Affairs Detachment

Troops from the historical Massachusetts Army National Guard are preparing to support Multi-National Task Force (East) during Kosovo Forces Rotation 8.

The 1st Squadron, 182nd Cavalry Regiment was one of the first units in United States Army, and 182nd Soldiers in TF Patriot is ready to add another chapter to that long history.

"The 182nd was formed when the Boston colonists pulled together and organized as part of the North Regiment on Oct. 7, 1636," said Capt. Todd Riviezzo, Bravo Troop Commander, Task Force Patriot.

Then, in April 1861 the unit was ordered to active service in the defense of Washington D.C., and later, participated in the battle of "Bull Run," and were finally mustered in August in Boston.

In July 1920, the unit became a part of 5th Infantry, Massachusetts National Guard. Then, in 1923, they were designated the 182nd Infantry Regiment of the 26th Infantry Division.

Ever since its origin, the regiment has existed in one form or another, and made its biggest change yet in 2006.

The 29th Infantry Division's 26th Brigade Combat Team needed a cavalry troop, and on September 1, under the direction of the U.S. Army's transformation plan, the infantry light fighters of the 182nd became cavalry scouts.

The main mission of an infantryman is engaging the enemy. A cavalry scout's main mission is reconnaissance, which entails information gathering and indirect fighting, according to Riviezzo.



Pfc. Matthew C. Moeller, 17th Public Affairs Detachment

Top: A Task Force Patriot Soldier waits at the ready during a quick reactionary force exercise at Camp Albertshof in Hohenfels, Germany Oct. 26. He will join the rest of Task Force Patriot as they deploy to Kosovo this year.
Below: 1st Lt. Joseph Digiovanni, Task Force Patriot civil affairs officer, hands out informational fliers to local townspeople during a mission readiness exercise.

"My main mission as a company commander for the past year was to make sure all my Soldiers went through the Cavalry Scout Transformation Class, as well as to continue the mission of preparing for Kosovo," said Riviezzo.

"Being light infantry we walked everywhere, so we had quite a bit of training ahead of us," he said.

Troops had to learn to work with Humvees by becoming familiar with preventive maintenance checks and services, taking the accident avoidance course, and the U.S. Army Europe driving test.

"We had to learn night driving techniques and how to do patrols with vehicles," said Spc. Dale F. Lind, a Task Force Patriot Soldier with the 182nd. "There was also some training on how to use the radios."

Along with all the extra training the Soldiers went through to become proficient in their new military occupation specialty, they had to remain tactically and technically proficient in their everyday Soldier skills.

"The training for the mission in Kosovo was initiated about the same time we found out we were transforming," said

Riviezzo. "So, we've done a lot of individual and group training throughout the last year."

Though the transformation was difficult, it had its advantages. The Soldiers inherited a new set of traditions to incorporate into the unit, such as the wearing the Stetson hat and spurs.

Despite the obstacles tossed at the unit

over the past year, the Soldiers are ready for their mission and proud to serve the 182nd.

"I've been in the National Guard for five and half years," said Lind, "I live in Hampton, New Hampshire and drill in Melrose, Massachusetts...I'm very proud of my unit."



Spc. Teirney M. Medeiros, 17th Public Affairs Detachment

Red Dragon • Always Ready to Go!

Story by Spc. Stephen Proctor
17th Public Affairs Detachment

After months of training, Task Force Red Dragon stands ready to promote and enforce safety and security during Kosovo Force Rotation 8.

TF Red Dragon consists of Able Co., 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment from the Massachusetts Army National Guard, Bravo Co., Charlie Co. and Headquarters and Headquarters Co. of the 116th Brigade Combat Team from the Virginia Army National Guard.

Since August 2006, TF Red Dragon has been training for KFOR 8 along with other 29th ID units. They began the mobilization process at Camp Atterbury, Ind., and concluded with a mission readiness exercise in Hohenfels, Germany.

"At Hohenfels, we've had training on riot control, reconnaissance patrols, and security patrols," said 2nd Lt. James Covington, Bravo Co., TF Red Dragon.

But the KFOR mission is about more than foot patrols and riot

control, it is also about connecting with the people of Kosovo.

"We also learned how to get to know the people and how to talk to them through an interpreter," said Covington, "we have to be sensitive to the culture of the Kosovo people to make sure we're helping to ease tensions, and not adding to them."

After more than two months of training, Soldiers of TF Red Dragon are ready for their mission.

Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Moore said, "We're fully prepared and ready to perform our mission."

Below: Soldiers from TF Red Dragon practice riot control training during a simulated training exercise in Hohenfels, Germany Oct. 28.

Opposite page

Top Left: Members of TF Red Dragon interview a citizen of 'Vitina' through an interpreter during a fictional Cordon and Search training exercise in Hohenfels, Germany Nov. 4.

Bottom Left: Sgt. Douglas Milne, TF Red Dragon, Liaison and Monitoring Team leader, conducts a last minute radio check before a simulated training exercise in Hohenfels, Germany Oct. 26.

Far Right: TF Red Dragon Soldiers are assaulted by mock rioters during a simulated training exercise in Hohenfels, Germany Oct. 28.





Spc. David House, 17th Public Affairs Detachment



Pfc. Matthew C. Moeller, 17th Public Affairs Detachment



Spc. Stephen Proctor, 17th Public Affairs Detachment



Spc. Stephen Proctor, 17th Public Affairs Detachment

Money, Meds & Military Intel

Due to high operational tempo, we were unable to cover every unit that participated in all the training during the mission readiness exercise in Hohenfels, Germany before heading to Kosovo. There are more task forces that will support Kosovo Force Rotation 8. Every single task force is essential to the overall mission in providing a safe and secure environment for the Kosovo people.

Task Force Loan Shark will handle finance issues for Soldiers during deployment. TF Loan Shark consists of Soldiers from the 1130th Finance Detachment, Tennessee Army National Guard.

Task Force Med Falcon will provide medical support during our mission in Kosovo. TF Med Falcon consists of U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers from multiple states, who have been attached to the 29th ID as part of the KFOR 8.

Task Force Prowler is a newly created military intelligence unit with the 29th ID. There are National Guard Soldiers from Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and Virginia.

Although we were unable to cover them during the training in Hohenfels, we look forward to covering the work they do when we get to Kosovo.

Task Force Loan Shark headed to Kosovo early to finish training with the KFOR 7 finance detachment.

(Right Top: Members of Loan Shark undergo a cash dispersing and cashier training simulation at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin Sept. 21.)

Task Force Med Falcon spent their time in Germany training with doctors at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

In Kosovo, TF Med Falcon will provide services from first aid to surgery, to include fully staffed veterinarian, dental, and preventative medicine teams.

(Right bottom: Master Sgt. Lonnie Minor of TF Med Falcon mimics taking a water sample during a mission readiness exercise scenario Nov. 3.)

Task Force Prowler will provide intelligence for Kosovo Force Rotation 8, to include the commander's priority intelligence requirements and the commander's critical intelligence requirements.

(Below: TF Prowler practices cordon and search techniques in preparation for KFOR 8 at Camp Atterbury, Ind.)



Spc. Eli Geery, Task Force Loan Shark



Photo courtesy of Task Force Prowler



Spc. Stephen Proctor, 17th Public Affairs Detachment

MP

TASK FORCE SEMPER LEX



Pfc. Matthew C. Moeller, 17th Public Affairs Detachment



Spc. Teirney M. Medeiros, 17th Public Affairs Detachment

Task Force Semper Lex will be the security element for Kosovo Force Rotation 8.

TF Semper Lex is made of two units working in new environments.

The 125th Military police Company Provost Marshal's Office will trade the sun of Puerto Rico for the wind, and snow of Kosovo.

The other element of TF Semper Lex is the 101st Engineers Company from Massachusetts. The engineers will act as 'unit police' after cross-training with military police.

"The MPs have a wealth of knowledge," said 1st Lt. Michael McDevitt, TF Semper Lex, line company, executive officer "we're very excited for our mission."

Left Top: A TF Semper Lex Soldier practices detainment techniques during a hasty checkpoint scenario with TF Red Dragon.

Left Bottom: A TF Semper Lex Soldier practices frisking procedures during training at Camp Albershof in Hohenfels, Germany.

Bottom: TF Semper Lex Soldiers practice detainment procedures at Camp Albershof in Hohenfels, Germany.



Staff Sgt. Manuel Torres-Cortes, 17th Public Affairs Detachment



Department of Defense Photo

TF Thunder unleashes PackBot

PackBot may look like it should be roaming Mars in a science fiction movie, but it is one of the Task Force Thunder's latest tools for Explosive Ordnance Disposal.

TF Thunder is the 753rd Ordnance Detachment from West Virginia.

Operated by remote control and equipped with multiple cameras, PackBot can safely maneuver into the blast zone of an unexploded ordnance and act as the operator's eyes and hands.

"We can safely gather information quickly without putting ourselves or others in danger," said Sgt. Dalton Haddock, TF Thunder team leader.

PackBot has proven rugged enough to handle improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan and Iraq, while its multi-function claw allows it the agility to disarm a variety of munitions and explosives, or pluck a daisy from the ground.



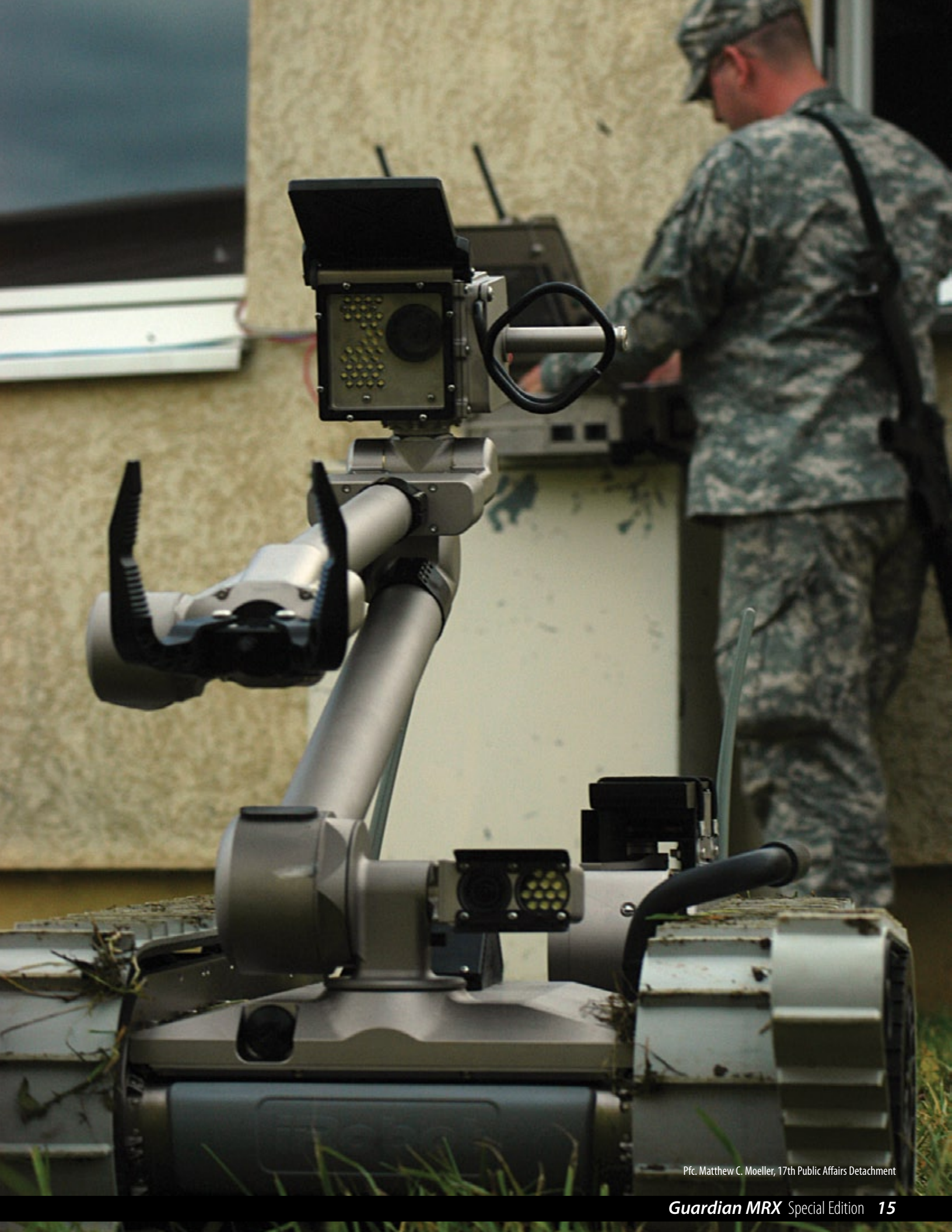
Spc. David House, 17th Public Affairs Detachment



Pfc. Matthew C. Moeller, 17th Public Affairs Detachment



Spc. David House, 17th Public Affairs Detachment



Pfc. Matthew C. Moeller, 17th Public Affairs Detachment

Notes from Task Force Chaplains

**KFOR 8
Chaplain
Services**
KFOR 8
Chaplain
Services
KFOR 8
Chaplain
Services

"It is a busy life, we do not just work on Sundays," said Pfc. Dennis Kerr, Task Force Falcon chaplain's assistant, Nebraska National Guard. "Our main mission is to create a professional environment for the Chaplain and the ministry. It also helps to empower Soldiers so that they can better concentrate on their duties at hand."

With this deployment, Soldiers should see the services of the chaplain as something more than just Sunday services, said Kerr. The services are available to the Soldiers on a 24/7/365 day basis for pastoral counseling services, reconciling life events and helping Soldiers cope with military life.

"The Chaplains also assist the command group with an assessment of the troop's morale as affected by religion," said Chaplain (Maj.) Paul Andreasen, KFOR 8 Chaplain. "We also assist in providing a religious analysis of the area of operations and how it might affect the Soldiers being deployed there."

"Being away from loved ones is something every Soldier has to deal with," said Father (Lt. Col.) William Leone, KFOR 8 Chaplain. "We are here to help with dealing with deployed life."

"Most of the Soldiers are excited and see this as a positive event," said Andreasen. "And as the sergeant major (of the Army) said, this is a year to set personal goals, be it physical, educational or mental. This will be a productive year to help contribute to the mission ahead."

During the Mission Readiness Exercise at Hohenfels, the Chaplain unit prepared itself by training for the mission ahead. Tasks included conducting services and responding to crises such as a fallen Soldier.

"Some of the things that we do when a Soldier is either wounded or killed include meeting with the Red Cross, addressing the unit affected and notifying family members," said Andreasen. "It can be a difficult task but it is one that we must practice and prepare not only ourselves but the Soldiers as well."

Although all religions are supported by the team, the KFOR 8 ministry team consists of Father (Lt. Col.) William Leone who will head the Catholic services. Majors Paul Andreasen and Dale Nelson will alternate leading the Protestant services. When the 29th reaches Camp Bondsteel additional Polish Ukraine and Greek services will be offered.

It is meaningful work but somewhat ironic," said Kerr. "If you are not very religious then you would be a perfect chaplain assistant as you do not have time to go to church yourself. Sometimes you have give up a little bit of your own time in order to give to others."

The KFOR 8 Chaplains are:
Father (Lt. Col.) William Leone
Chaplain (Maj.) Paul Andreasen
Chaplain (Maj.) Dale Nelson

The KFOR 8 Chaplains' Assistants are:
Staff Sgt. Patricia Castillo
Sgt. Bum Kim
Spc. Scott Bauer
Pfc. Dennis Kerr

Chapel Program Schedule

- Catholic Mass
- General Protestant
- Protestant with Holy Communion
- Gospel
- Bible Studies

A more complete schedule and additional services will be available as we get settled into Kosovo.

AT EASE!

The Noncommissioned Officers Guide

Joint Operation Center sergeant major, talks NCO business. Listen Up.

Sgt. Maj. Ed Siebold, sits down and explains why life in the field is so hectic and stressful at the same time. He emphasizes the importance of the responsibilities and duties of a noncommissioned officer have for their Soldiers.

Every day Soldiers wonder why certain rules and regulations exist. But what most young soldiers don't know is that most of the things they do are to keep them safe and sound.

As Soldiers walk along the streets on Camp Albertshof, Humvees, cars and trucks pass by them. Most walkers are in the Army Combat Uniform which doesn't provide the Soldier any reflective material for the vehicles to see. With an inattentive driver, this could be a lethal combination.

"Sergeant majors don't sit around thinking of ways to make the Soldier's life miserable," said Siebold. "The reason we mandated the use of the physical training reflective belt at night with all uniforms is for the safety of the Soldiers."

After seeing two Soldiers almost getting hit by a car here, Sgt. Maj. Siebold, Command Sgt. Maj. Jenks, Task Force Falcon command sergeant major decided to make additional safety changes. While

maintaining awareness and keeping safety in mind, NCOs keep the units from losing Soldiers and ultimately accomplishing the overall mission.

Besides wearing P.T. belts at night, another mandatory action of every Soldier is to correctly clear their weapons. In a training environment with blank ammo, Soldiers must practice, to avoid an accidental discharge.

"With live rounds being issued in Kosovo, it is here where the lives will be saved with all the practice and safety measures," said Siebold. "If the Soldiers don't correctly clear the weapon and still have the magazine inserted into the weapon, they will chamber a round and when they pull the trigger, the bullet will have to go somewhere, so it is better for it to go in the clearing barrel, than somewhere else."

It is the job of every NCO and battle buddy to check and recheck the weapon before they release the bolt. This is more safety measure that saves hundreds of injuries and deaths each year.

While trying to keep the Soldiers alive and well, top notch NCOs give more opportunities for their Soldier to excel during this deployment. All Soldiers will have the opportunity to make the best out of

this year for themselves.

"This is a perfect opportunity for Soldiers to get additional civilian education with the excellent College Education Program on Camp Bondsteel," said Siebold.

NCOs will have the opportunity to better themselves in the Camp Bondsteel Noncommissioned officers education system, the Warrior Leaders Course, Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course and Battle Staff School.

"All training is designed to be tough and vigorous to allow the Soldiers to build the confidence they need to do it in a combat situation," explained Siebold.

For this mission to Kosovo, Soldiers have the chance to enlighten themselves and learn about the world they live in and the part of the world they are trying to protect. Siebold acknowledges the importance that this area has to the ultimate goal of peace.

"Learn about the difficulties each of the Kosovo Albanians and Serbians go through, teaching yourself some of the language and using it when you speak with the locals," he said. "It will go a long way for you and the people of Kosovo."

"The most important resource the Army has is its Soldiers."

On the spot corrections of the month

Throughout our tour in Kosovo, the Guardian will publish the top three on the spot corrections officers and noncommissioned officers see and correct throughout the month... and the excuses Soldiers use to validate their actions.

#3 HEARING IS BELIEVING

A lieutenant was going to the shoppette and noticed a Soldier walking towards him with headphones on. The lieutenant stopped the Soldier and told him he was out of uniform. The Soldier stopped, looked down and replied, "No I'm not. I have it on."

#2 TEAM WORK

A sergeant was backing up his Humvee without a ground guide and a master sergeant walked up to the driver and told him to get a ground guide, the sergeant replied, "Thanks...are you busy?"

#1 PICKING UP YOUR TRASH

A staff sergeant was walking to the dining facility and observed a specialist toss a half-eaten orange on the ground. "Hey you going to pick that up," said the staff sergeant. The Specialist replied, "I would sergeant, but it's biodegradable."

• Send your on the spot correction stories to stephen.l.proctor@us.army.mil. If they pass inspection we'll put them in next month's issue. •





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Lets Go!